



MARKET HARBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary State of
the District for the year

1938,

BY

C. T. SCOTT, M.A., M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND

B. G. ELLIOTT, M.R., San. I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR.

MARKET HARBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1938.

To the Market Harborough Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report, together with that of your Sanitary Inspector.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is 4,771 acres, and it is situated in the Welland Valley on the borders of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The chief industries carried on in the area include the manufacture of corsets, dried foods, rubber goods, accumulators, type, bolts and nuts, wood turnery and pumps, soles and heels for shoe trade, aircraft components, brushes, steel rules for carton work, and brass rules for printing. There are also timber mills in the district, and premises for the dressing of leather, silk weaving, sheet metal working and constructional engineering. A large cattle market in the town serves the surrounding rural districts. There are no trades especially dangerous to health.

STATISTICS.

Area	... ..	4,771 Acres.
Population (Registrar General's Estimate for 1938)	... ..	9,417
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	... ..	2,826
Rateable Value	... ..	£62,097
Sum represented by penny rate	...	£237

Vital Statistics.—The birth rate is still low, namely, 12.4, considerably lower than that of the whole country, which is 15.1. The death rate is 10.5, that for the whole country being 11.6.

				M.H.U.D.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population)...				12.4	15.1
Death Rate ,, ,, 				10.5	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 				45.4	53.0

		Total	M.	F.		
Live Births	{	Legitimate	106	62	44	} Rate per 1,000 population 12.4
		Illegitimate	4	2	2	
Still Births	{	Legitimate	6	6	0	} Rate per 1,000 births 59.0
		Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Deaths	... ..	99	50	49	Rate per 1,000 population 10.5	
Deaths of Infants under one year.	{	Legitimate	5	2	3	}
		Illegitimate	0	0	0	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

Sepsis	... ..	0
Other Causes	... ..	2

Amongst the causes of death at all ages are :—

Cancer	... ..	12
Measles	... ..	1
Whooping Cough	... ..	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	... ..	0

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Cancer death rate 1.2 per 1,000 population.									

HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers :—

	Part or whole time	Salary	Qualifications
Medical Officer of Health	Part	Yes	M.D.
Sanitary Inspector...	Whole	Yes	M.R. San.I., Meat and Smoke Certificates.
Health Visitor	Whole	Yes	C.M.B. Queen's Certificate. Qualified Nurse.
Midwife	Part	Subsidy	C.M.B.

Laboratory Facilities :—

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are carried out in the County Council's Laboratory : the examinations made during the year include :—

Milk Examinations (bacteriological)	...	...	50
Sputa for T.B.	...	...	31
Wasserman Tests	...	...	8
Sewage and Water Analyses	...	...	11
Throat Swabs for Diphtheria	...	...	23
Urine	...	...	5
Milk (Fat Content)	...	...	4
Urine for T.B.	...	...	3
Films for Gonococci	...	...	5

Ambulance Facilities :—

There is a very efficient branch of the St. John Ambulance Division, who have two well-equipped wagons. Ambulances for infectious diseases are provided by the County Council Fever Hospitals.

Nursing and Clinics :—

There has been no home nursing provided by the Council, and there are no clinics in the district.

Hospitals :—

There is one Voluntary Hospital in the district which is subsidised by the Council, and which provides a District Nurse. There is also a large Infirmary under the control of the Public Assistance Committee.

Maternity and Child Welfare :—

Institutional treatment is provided in the Maternity Ward of the District Hospital and also in the Public Assistance Infirmary. The local authority make an annual contribution to the funds of the Maternity Ward in the Hospital, in return for which the Council have the right to send in necessitous mothers, on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health, whether complicated or normal cases. The District Midwife is employed by the committee of the Hospital, and part of her salary is paid by the Council; a scale of payments for the Midwife's services has been adopted, which varies with the parents' means. It is anticipated that the proposed new building for a separate maternity block, at the back of the Hospital, will be completed during 1939.

Ante-natal care has been revised during the year : the clinic at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is still held, but additional arrangements have been made for mothers unwilling or unable to attend. All Midwives have been instructed that all women whom they undertake to attend, as Midwives, *must* be seen ante-natally by a Doctor, at least once : if the mother does not attend the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic the Midwife is instructed to summon the patient's own doctor (*i.e.*, the one who will be called in if necessary at the confinement) to examine her ante-natally ; the Council have undertaken to pay the doctor a fee for these examinations. Arrangements have been made for holding these examinations at the Hospital, at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, or at the patient's home.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is maintained by the Council. It is managed by a voluntary committee of ladies, two of whom act as representatives on the Health Committee of the Council. The Centre is open one day a week, and the Medical Officer attends once a fortnight. Attendances at the Centre are well maintained. The Health Visitor visits all new-born children in their homes, and continues regular home visits until the child reaches school age, after which the child's record card is forwarded to the School Medical Officer.

During the year provision has been made for dental treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and children under school age. On the recommendation of the Medical Officer, at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, the mother is given a permit to see one of the fully qualified dentists in the town who attends the patient at his own premises and submits his account to the Council according to an agreed scale; the arrangement provides assistance towards the cost of dentures if necessary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—No extensions to works or mains have been made during the year. The wells Nos. 9 and 10 at Glebe Farm Works (referred to in the last Annual Report) gave no further cause for concern as analyses continued to give satisfactory results. The two wells at this source (constructed in 1935) have been thoroughly tested by having them in continuous service throughout the year, and 57,000 gallons per day have been obtained therefrom. In both cases the rest level of the water has only dropped very slightly.

In addition to the samples mentioned, the three analyses of water from a house tap in the town have all been the subject of satisfactory report, both chemically and bacteriologically, and there has been no shortage of water during the year.

A copy of the result of the Analysis and Report of the Leicestershire County Council, dated 7th November, 1938, regarding the last sample from the town main is appended :—

- Appearance in 2-foot tube.—Clear.
- Odour.—Nil.
- Reaction.—Faintly Alkaline,
- Hardness.—47,

	Parts per 100,000.	Grains per Gallon.
Free and Saline Ammonia	Trace	Trace
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.002	0.0014
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	1.5	1.05
(Equal to Chloride of Sodium)	2.4	1.7
Nitrogen in Nitrates ...	0.02	0.014
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	—	—

No coliform organisms present in 10 c.cs.

Remarks.—The analysis of this sample shows it to be of good quality, suitable for drinking.

Sixty-one houses in the district derive their supply from twenty-seven private wells, and the remainder are connected to the public piped supply. 36 samples from the private wells were examined for the presence of pollution. Two samples were unsatisfactory—in one case the well which served two houses was closed and the main piped supply connected, and in the other case the well which supplied one house was cleansed and the drains overhauled.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There are no special circumstances to report, and both sewers and disposal works have worked efficiently through the year. Samples of effluents from the disposal works are taken regularly.

Rivers and Streams.—Possible sources of pollution are kept under regular observation, and no instances were discovered or complaints received during the year.

Closet Accommodation.—Seventy-nine new water closets have been constructed and connected to the sewerage system, and the total number in the area is now 3,838 approximately. Several properties in outlying parts of the district are on the conservancy system comprising in all 3 privies and some 18 pail and chemical closets. Two of the latter type were converted to water closets during the year.

Public Cleansing.—The few privies and pail closets are cleansed by occupiers of premises. One ashpit has been abolished and dustbin substituted, and the one remaining ashpit in the district is cleansed by the Council's staff at regular intervals.

With this exception, all houses are provided with bustbins which are emptied weekly by direct labour, an S.D. Freighter motor vehicle being employed for the purpose. 246 new dustbins have been provided by owners of property in response to notices calling attention to the necessity for the replacement of defective bins. Trade refuse is collected weekly from 28 premises for which a charge is made, and refuse brought to the destructor is disposed of free. The approximate quantity of refuse received at the destructor was as follows :—House refuse 1,816 tons, trade refuse 690 tons.

Fresh arrangements for the disposal of incombustible refuse became necessary owing to the expiry of an agreement with the owner of the Little Bowden Clay Pit, and an adjoining site suitable for the purpose was purchased by the Council, for use as a tip and also as a depot for road materials, by means of a loan which was sanctioned by the Ministry of Health on condition that the tip was operated on the Controlled System and the deposit of house and organic refuse excluded therefrom. The new tip was opened on December 1st, and a scale of payments for the privilege of tipping adopted by the Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections :—

	1st Visits.	Revisits.
Dwelling-houses (all purposes)	537	608
Tents, Vans, etc. (human habitation) ...	6	8
Slaughter-houses	6	707
Food Premises	73	460
Dairies and Cowsheds	21	65
Offensive Trades	9	8
Animal Keeping	62	28
Workshops, etc.	69	43
Shops	174	27
Petrol and Carbide Stores	41	21
Other Premises	196	167

Sundry Items :—

Complaints Investigated	117
Informal Notices Served	464
Statutory Notices Served	7

Dwelling-houses :—

[illegible]

Factories and Workshops :—

[illegible]

Means of Escape in case of Fire :—

Means of Escape Improved	...	...	...	...	...	4
Amended Certificate Issued	...	...	...	...	...	1
New Certificates under Factories Act, 1937, issued						5
Instances where issue of Certificate deferred pending alterations to exits...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Petrol and Carbide Stores :—

New Stores erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Contraventions dealt with		...	...	...	...	...	...	9

	No. of Licences.	Quantity Licensed.
Petroleum Spirit	37	50,550 gallons
Carbide of Calcium	4	1,710 lbs.

Miscellaneous Nuisances, etc. :—

Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	29
Animal keeping nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Drains and Sanitary Fittings tested	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ „ „ repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	44

Disinfection and Disinfestation :—

Infected rooms fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Verminous rooms treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Articles of bedding and wearing apparel :—								
Steam disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	198
Destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155

Common Lodging-houses :

There are none in the district.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 :—

At the request of the Leicestershire County Council, posters supplied by them were exhibited throughout the district during National Rat Week. Advice was given or action taken in regard to 34 infestations of rats and mice. Premises owned or occupied by the Council receive regular attention.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911—1928 :—

Ready-made articles containing rag flock, which is guaranteed to conform with the required standard of cleanliness, are sold by five tradesmen, four of whom also use rag flock supplied by reputable firms for upholstering purposes.

Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to control by the Local Authority :—

Trade.	No. in District.
Fish Frier	5
Rag and Bone Dealer	4

Three written consents to establishing the trade of fish frier (including two mobile shops), and two consents in respect of rag and bone dealers, have been renewed. Generally, the trades have been conducted in a satisfactory manner, and no complaints have been received. One contravention of the Byelaws was attended to.

Shops and Offices :—

A survey of the various premises under the Shops Act, 1934, was completed, and a report was submitted in November to the Council who gave certain instructions thereon. During the year, two defects in sanitary conveniences were remedied. In several instances advice has been given regarding the requirements of the Public Health Act, 1936, in relation to offices.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc., used for human habitation :—

Six amusement fairs, travelling shows, etc., were visited, in all 14 inspections being made. One contravention of the Byelaws was rectified.

Camping Sites :—

No sites in the area were used for camping purposes within the meaning of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936,

Smoke Abatement :—

Nineteen observations of boiler and furnace chimneys were carried out, and three instances of excessive smoke emission were detected. In two of the cases, structural alterations were found to be necessary, and in the third case methods of stoking were chiefly at fault. In each instance the premises were visited, and the matter discussed with the persons concerned.

Swimming Baths and Pools :—

The one Public Swimming Bath in the district is owned by the Council. The water is circulated through a Paterson Filtration and Chlorination plant, giving a complete turn over every four hours. Daily tests for chlorine content are made by the Baths Manager in accordance with the makers' directions.

Eradication of Bed Bugs :—

	Council Houses.	Other Houses.
Number of houses found to be infested	1	0
Number of houses disinfested	1	0

Only one case of slight infestation was discovered during the year.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, and the methods employed, which have proved satisfactory in the past, are as follows:—Houses are fumigated with "Lawes Disinfestator Blocks" or sprayed with "Zaldecide," "Lawvercide," or "Solution D" insecticide according to the needs of each particular case, and the treatment is repeated as required. Bedding and clothing are steam disinfested, furniture dismantled, cleansed and sprayed, and unwanted articles removed to the Destructor. Cases are kept under observation for one year.

Schools :—

There are five Public Elementary, one County Secondary and three Private Schools in the town. The sanitary conditions are good, all premises being connected to the town sewerage system and public water supply mains. The sanitary conveniences of two public elementary schools have been modernised during the year.

HOUSING.

Forty-nine houses have been erected during the year, which brings the total number constructed since 1919 to 971. During the latter period 163 houses have been closed, demolished or converted to business or other purposes.

The following up-to-date particulars relate to applicants on the "waiting list" for the tenancy of Council houses :—

Number of applicants living in rooms	...	...	...	...	26
„ „ working in district but living outside...					16
„ „ who desire accommodation for health					
or other reasons	110
					<hr/>
Total					152
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With regard to the 116 unfit houses dealt with in the five years' Slum Clearance Programme (see 1934 Report), the whole of the work has now been completed including the demolition of four houses outstanding last year. The result of the action taken is set out in the list below :—

Situation of Property.	Demolished.	Number of Houses.		Total
		Closed.	Rendered fit.	
Adam and Eve Street ...	3	—	—	3
Aldwinckles Yard	—	5	—	5
Allen's Yard	—	1	—	1
Angel Street	2	—	4	6
Bowden Lane	2	—	6	8
Burgess Yard	—	3	—	3
Church Square	2	—	—	2
Commons, The	—	1	—	1
Garden Row	—	12	—	12
Green, The	4	—	—	4
Kings Road	2	1	—	3
Kings Head Place	—	1	7	8
Knights End Road	2	—	—	2
Mail Court	3	—	—	3
Martin's Yard	—	3	—	3
Mill Hill Road	4	—	—	4
Quakers Yard	13	—	—	13
St. Mary's Road	—	3	—	3
Shropshire Place	8	—	—	8
Sun Yard	9	2	—	11
Waterfield Place	8	—	—	8
Wellington Yard	5	—	—	5
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	67	32	17	116
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During 1938, three houses which were reported in December, 1937, as being unfit, have been vacated and closed.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	202
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	407
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	9
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	16
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation... ..	9
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	71

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	61
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts	0
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	0

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	1
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	1
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	11

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	4
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	8
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	59
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	0
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply :—

Trade.	No. on Register.
Cowkeepers	9
Purveyors :	
Retailers only	6
Retailers and Cowkeepers	6
	— 12
Farms and other Premises	21

(Number of milch cows in district—286).

The following licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 :—

“Pasteurised” Milk	1
“Tuberculin Tested” Milk (Dealers)	3
„ „ „ (Supplementary)	1

Seven producers outside the area send milk to retailers for consumption within the district. Six are licensed in their respective areas to produce “Accredited” milk and one “Tuberculin Tested” milk.

Four local producers are licensed by the Leicestershire County Council in respect of five farms for the production of “Accredited” milk, and sampling of the latter is undertaken by the County Council. Twelve samples of milk (other than “Accredited”) as retailed in the district have been collected and submitted to the County Laboratory for Methylene Blue and Coliform Tests, and the report in each case has been satisfactory. Eighty-six visits of inspection of premises have been made during the year, and the

following defects have been remedied :—

Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	4
Structural Alterations	...	...	...	...	...	2
Utensils	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other defects	...	...	...	...	...	4

In one instance following a report as to unsatisfactory conditions, a Sub-Committee appointed by the Council visited the premises and interviewed the producer concerned.

Meat and Other Foods :—

Of the six slaughter-houses in the district three are owned by the Council and are tenanted by five butchers, and three private slaughter-houses are owned by two butchers. A high standard has been maintained in the type of animal slaughtered for food purposes.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (estimated)	613	0	25	2218	869
Number inspected	511	—	21	1849	773
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	2	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	—	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ... ..	.98	—	—	.11	.39
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	—	—	—	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	2.7	—	—	—	1.2

Shops, Stores, Stalls and other premises where food is sold or prepared for sale have been inspected periodically.

The erection of a new covered stall market on a site at the Northampton Road entrance to the Cattle Market has been completed at a cost of £5,200, and the building was opened on October 25th. This provides separate accommodation for twenty meat, fish and provision stalls, as well as for 59 other stalls, and replaces the open market formerly held on The Square, which site is now utilised as a car park and bus station.

Defects remedied at food premises :—

Cleansing carried out	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
Food exposed to contamination	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	4

Food condemned :—

250 lbs. home killed beef.
140 „ „ „ mutton.
339 „ „ „ pork.
213 „ sundry articles of food.

Adulteration, etc. :—

The Food and Drugs Acts, etc., are administered by the Leicestershire County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food :—

Samples of milk have been submitted to the laboratory of the Leicestershire County Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of notifiable disease has been very low during the year, and there has been no serious epidemic of any kind.

In the middle of the year a scheme for prophylactic inoculation against diphtheria was adopted. The Council decided to pay the cost of material and arranged with doctors in the district to inoculate their own patients at an agreed fee. In the case of necessitous persons the Council undertook to pay the whole or part of the doctor's fee according to an agreed scale. The response to the appeal to parents and guardians was good—nearly 300 children were inoculated—but a considerable effort is still required if all children are to be protected.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	2	0	0
Pneumonia	11	—	0
Diphtheria	4	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0

Scarlet Fever Cases—Ages 8 and 14.

Tuberculosis :—

Ten new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. There were 4 deaths from Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
15—25	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	4	6	1	1	1	3	—	—

CHARLES T. SCOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

BERNARD G. ELLIOTT,

Sanitary Inspector.

